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LB 303

SENATOR JENSEN: ...people for a number of years. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Jensen. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Friend.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, three months or so, I guess, I've been here. Whatever. It seems like three years. The bill that's before us now, I told my wife the other night, has cost me more thought and more lost sleep than anything that I've dealt with yet. And here's why I say that. In 1987, ironically, the year where...the information that we received, 31 motorcycle fatalities that year. In 1987, my sister was hurt, my sister Elizabeth was hurt in an automobile accident. She's never been the same. When I went over to St. Joe Hospital...she had a subdural hematoma. When I went over to St. Joe Hospital...I was living in Oklahoma. I came back, sprinted over there, went into her room in intensive care, a small room. And trust me, head injury is absolutely amazing, shocking, absolutely devastating. What's even more devastating is that I walked out into that lobby, and that lobby was choked with grieving family members, not just from my family. There were nine people in intensive care that night when I got there. Seven of them were motorcycle accidents. The next morning, when I got to that hospital again, two of those people had died. My sister wasn't one of them. My sister lives in Valley in a nursing home. She's fed through a tube. The conclusion that I came to...we're talking about helmets, we're talk...I mean, we'd have to place body armor on these people, folks. Riding motorcycles is inherently dangerous. Yeah, I'm bringing a personal aspect to this, okay? But I truly feel this. Getting on the back of a motorcycle is inherently dangerous. The analogy would be me running with the bulls. The analogy would be, eventually you're going to get gored. Would be me walking down the street with elephants walking over my head. You're going to get stomped, you're going to be a statistic. Do I sound a little harsh? I've gotten calls from doctors trying to explain to me what head trauma means, what it does to families. Save it, doc. I've lived it, okay? I know it. And I'm here to tell...and you know what the surprising part of this whole thing is? And then I will end right there. The surprising part of this whole thing is, they